

Commentary:

(a) This prohibition derives from the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted by the General Assembly, according to which:

“[Such act] is an offence to human dignity and shall be condemned as a denial of the purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and as a violation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights [and other international human rights instruments].”

(b) The Declaration defines torture as follows:

“... torture means any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted by or at the instigation of a public official on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or confession, punishing him for an act he has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating him or other persons. It does not include pain or suffering arising only from, inherent in or incidental to, lawful sanctions to the extent consistent with the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.”¹²²

(c) The term “cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment” has not been defined by the General Assembly, but should be interpreted so as to extend the widest possible protection against abuses, whether physical or mental.

[Articles 6 to 10 could not be debated by the informal open-ended Working Group during the thirty-third session of the General Assembly owing to lack of time.]

33/184. Importance of the improvement of the status and role of women in education and in the economic and social fields for the achievement of the equality of women with men

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, in which it proclaimed the period from 1976 to 1985 the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,

Recalling also its resolution 31/134 of 16 December 1976 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1978/30 and 1978/32 of 5 May 1978,

Recognizing the importance of the improvement of the status and role of women in education and in the economic and social fields for the achievement of the equality of women with men,

Recognizing further the importance of the exchange of experience in these matters among States,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the status and role of women in education,¹²³

1. *Urges* States to take the necessary measures to promote full equality of women with men in education and in the economic and social fields;

2. *Recommends* that States envisage in their policies all appropriate measures to create necessary conditions which will enable women to participate in work on an equal footing with men;

¹²² *First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders: report by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 56.IV.4), annex I.A.
¹²³ A/33/214.

3. *Invites* Member States to give in their reports, which are to be submitted in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolutions 1325 (XLIV) of 31 May 1968 and 1677 (LII) of 2 June 1972 and General Assembly resolution 3520 (XXX), the fullest possible information on their experience in the improvement of the status and role of women in education and in the economic and social fields and its impact on the achievement of the equality of women with men;

4. *Invites* the specialized agencies and regional commissions as well as other interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to submit their observations concerning ways and means for the improvement of the status and role of women in education and in the economic and social fields, on the basis of existing studies and field experience in projects, as well as the conclusions of seminars and symposiums held on such subjects;

5. *Requests* the specialized agencies, regional commissions and other interested organizations of the United Nations system to organize seminars and meetings and to make studies on ways and means for the improvement of the status of women in education and in the economic and social fields;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare an analytical report on the status and role of women in education and in the economic and social fields, based on the material received under paragraphs 3 and 4 above as well as on various existing studies and research, for consideration by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bear in mind the content of the present resolution in preparing documentation for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, to be held in 1980.

95th plenary meeting
29 January 1979

33/185. Preparations for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, including the adoption of the subtheme “Employment, Health and Education”

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, in which it decided to convene a world conference in 1980, and 33/189 of 29 January 1979, in which it, *inter alia*, emphasized the subtheme “Employment, Health and Education” for the Programme of Action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, and requested the Secretary-General to invite the regional commissions to convene preparatory meetings and seminars,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/32 of 5 May 1978, in which the Council recommended the subtheme “Employment, Health and Education” for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, and invited Member States to submit reports

on national experience, which would include specific information on projects related to these three fields,

Bearing in mind that women will not be able to play an equal and effective role in the process of development unless they have equal opportunities for education and employment and have the health care facilities and social atmosphere necessary for the utilization of these opportunities,

Considering that the equal participation of women in the development process and in political life will contribute to the achievement of international peace,

Recognizing that intensification of international co-operation for accelerated economic and social progress in developing countries, through the establishment of the new international economic order, is an essential means for the progressive integration of women in the development process,

1. *Decides* upon the subtheme "Employment, Health and Education" for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, whose purpose will continue to be to review and evaluate the progress made in the first half of the Decade and to recommend a programme of action, with necessary changes and readjustments in the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year,¹²⁴ for the second half of the Decade, in order to attain its objectives of equality, development and peace;

2. *Recommends*, therefore, that the Conference should place emphasis on elaborating action-oriented plans for integrating women in the development process, particularly by promoting economic activities and employment opportunities on an equal footing with men through, *inter alia*, the provision of adequate health and educational facilities, and that the preparatory work for the Conference should take this into account;

3. *Invites* the regional commissions, the International Labour Organisation, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and any other United Nations agency concerned to review progress made as well as constraints and specific problems encountered in their technical and operational areas in the achievement of the aims and objectives of the Decade, and to suggest appropriate programmes for the second half of the Decade, with special emphasis on the subtheme "Employment, Health and Education", in co-operation with each other wherever feasible, to the regional preparatory meetings, if possible, or to the Conference;

4. *Requests* regional preparatory meetings to suggest appropriate programmes for the second half of the Decade, through a review and evaluation of the progress made and obstacles encountered in the first half of the Decade, with special emphasis on the sub-

theme "Employment, Health and Education", taking into account the following broad approaches:

(a) Technical co-operation;

(b) Research, data collection and analysis, including the strengthening of existing arrangements at the regional level to collect qualitative and quantitative data on the conditions and problems of women, especially relating to their employment and educational status;

(c) Dissemination of information to eliminate stereotyped concepts of masculine and feminine roles and exchange of information about projects related to the objectives of the Decade;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To prepare a report for the Conference on the problems encountered, and the status and future role of both urban and rural women in the areas of employment and participation in economic life, especially at the policy-making level, education and technical and other kinds of training, and health, nutrition and family planning, basing it on the information received in response to his questionnaire on review and evaluation of progress in the first half of the Decade and on any other information available to him, including that received from Member States in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1978/32;

(b) To take the above-mentioned information as well as the recommendations of regional preparatory meetings, the regional commissions and United Nations agencies into account in preparing documents related to item 9 of the provisional agenda for the Conference;¹²⁵

(c) To draw the attention of Member States to the present resolution, and to circulate it also to the regional commissions and relevant United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, and to regional preparatory meetings and seminars held to prepare for the Conference.

95th plenary meeting
29 January 1979

33/186. Rationalization of the reporting system on the status of women

The General Assembly,

Recalling the existing biennial reporting system on the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women¹²⁶ and related instruments under Economic and Social Council resolutions 1325 (XLIV) of 31 May 1968 and 1677 (LII) of 2 June 1972,

Recalling further that, in accordance with its resolutions 3490 (XXX) of 12 December 1975, entitled "Implementation of the World Plan of Action adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year", and 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, reporting procedures have been established and are being carried out for biennial system-wide reviews and appraisals of the implementation of the World Plan of

¹²⁴ Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico, 19 June-2 July 1975 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1), chap. II, sect. A.

¹²⁵ Resolution 33/189, annex.

¹²⁶ Resolution 2263 (XXII).